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Resolution adopted by the General Assembly on 13 December 2013

[*without reference to a Main Committee (A/68/L.21 and Add.1)*]

68/99. Strengthening of international cooperation and coordination of efforts to study, mitigate and minimize the consequences of the Chernobyl disaster

The General Assembly,

Reaffirming its resolutions 45/190 of 21 December 1990, 46/150 of 18 December 1991, 47/165 of 18 December 1992, 48/206 of 21 December 1993, 50/134 of 20 December 1995, 52/172 of 16 December 1997, 54/97 of 8 December 1999, 56/109 of 14 December 2001, 58/119 of 17 December 2003, 60/14 of 14 November 2005, 62/9 of 20 November 2007 and 65/131 of 15 December 2010, as well as its resolution 55/171 of 14 December 2000 on closure of the Chernobyl nuclear power plant, and taking note of the decisions adopted by the organs, organizations and programmes of the United Nations system in the implementation of those resolutions,

Recalling Economic and Social Council resolutions 1990/50 of 13 July 1990, 1991/51 of 26 July 1991 and 1992/38 of 30 July 1992 and Council decision 1993/232 of 22 July 1993,

Conscious of the long-term nature of the consequences of the disaster at the Chernobyl nuclear power plant, which was a major technological catastrophe in terms of its scope and complexity and created humanitarian, environmental, social, economic and health consequences and problems of common concern, requiring for their solution wide and active international cooperation and coordination of efforts in this field at the international and national levels,

Expressing profound concern at the ongoing effects of the consequences of the accident on the lives and health of people, in particular children, in the affected areas of Belarus, the Russian Federation and Ukraine, as well as in other affected countries,

Noting the consensus reached among members of the Chernobyl Forum on the environmental, health and socioeconomic effects of the Chernobyl disaster, in particular in providing a message of reassurance and practical advice to communities living in territories affected by the Chernobyl disaster,

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Acknowledging the importance of the national efforts being undertaken by the Governments of Belarus, the Russian Federation and Ukraine to mitigate and minimize the consequences of the Chernobyl disaster,

Recognizing the contribution of civil society organizations, including the national Red Cross Societies of Belarus, the Russian Federation and Ukraine and the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, in response to the Chernobyl disaster and in support of the efforts of the affected countries,

Welcoming with appreciation the developmental approach to tackling the problems caused by the Chernobyl disaster aimed at normalizing the situation of the individuals and communities concerned in the medium and long term,

Stressing the exceptional Chernobyl-related needs, in particular in the areas of health, environment and research, in the context of the transition from the emergency to the recovery phase of mitigation of the consequences of the Chernobyl disaster,

Noting the coordinating role for Chernobyl issues of the United Nations Development Programme,

Welcoming with appreciation the progress of engineering projects in transforming the damaged reactor site into a stable and environmentally safe condition, noting in particular that the design and construction of a new, safe confinement for the reactor will require significant funds to complete,

Stressing the need for further coordination by the United Nations Development Programme and improved resource mobilization by the United Nations system to support the activities aimed at the recovery of Chernobyl-affected territories, inter alia, community-based development projects, support to investment promotion and the creation of new jobs and small businesses, advocacy work and the provision of relevant policy advice as requested, and the widest possible dissemination of the findings of the Chernobyl Forum through the International Chernobyl Research and Information Network,

Emphasizing the significance of the upcoming thirtieth anniversary of the accident for developing approaches to the organization of further international cooperation on Chernobyl after 2016,

Taking note of the report of the Secretary-General concerning the implementation of resolution 65/131,[1] as well as relevant parts of the reports of the agencies and organizations of the United Nations system,

1. *Welcomes* the contribution made by States and by organizations of the United Nations system to the development of cooperation to mitigate and minimize the consequences of the Chernobyl disaster, the activities of regional and other organizations and those of non-governmental organizations, as well as bilateral activities;

2. *Notes with appreciation* the efforts undertaken by the agencies of the United Nations system and other international organizations that are members of the Inter-Agency Task Force on Chernobyl to continue implementing a developmental approach to study, mitigate and minimize the consequences of the Chernobyl disaster, in particular through the development of specific projects, and stresses the

[1] A/68/498.

need for the Inter-Agency Task Force to continue its activities to that end, including through coordinating efforts in the field of resource mobilization;

3. *Acknowledges* the difficulties faced by the most affected countries in minimizing the consequences of the Chernobyl disaster, and invites States, in particular donor States, and all relevant agencies, funds and programmes of the United Nations system, in particular the Bretton Woods institutions, as well as non-governmental organizations, to continue to provide support to the ongoing efforts of Belarus, the Russian Federation and Ukraine to mitigate the consequences of the Chernobyl disaster, including through the allocation of adequate funds to support medical, social, economic and environmental programmes related to the disaster;

4. *Reaffirms* that the United Nations should continue to play an important catalytic and coordinating role in the strengthening of international cooperation to study, mitigate and minimize the consequences of the Chernobyl disaster;

5. *Requests* the Secretary-General and the United Nations Coordinator of International Cooperation on Chernobyl, in her capacity as Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme and as Chair of the United Nations Development Group, to continue to take appropriate practical measures to strengthen coordination of the international efforts in that area;

6. *Welcomes* the efforts of the Government of Ukraine and inputs and contributions made by the States, international organizations and financial institutions that participated in the Chernobyl pledging conference to complete the construction of the shelter facility and related nuclear safety projects at Chernobyl, in accordance with international standards, so as to transform the site into a stable and environmentally safe condition, and urges all parties to ensure that a strong, long-standing, high-level commitment remains in place to ensure the successful completion of this vital work;

7. *Also welcomes* the activities of the United Nations Development Programme Goodwill Ambassador, star tennis player Ms. Maria Sharapova, who serves as an advocate for post-Chernobyl recovery efforts, and praises her personal commitment in supporting a number of recovery projects that aid local communities in Belarus, the Russian Federation and Ukraine;

8. *Notes with satisfaction* the completion of the Cooperation for Rehabilitation Programme in Belarus and the Chernobyl Recovery and Development Programme in Ukraine, aimed at promoting better living conditions in and the sustainable development of the affected territories;

9. *Welcomes* the results of a three-year project implemented by the United Nations Development Programme, the United Nations Children's Fund and the United Nations Population Fund aimed at enhancing human well-being and safety in the Chernobyl-affected areas and the area-based development project in the Chernobyl-affected areas in Belarus, as well as the nationwide extension of the area-based development approach that was piloted in the Chernobyl-affected region of Ukraine;

10. *Notes with satisfaction* assistance rendered by the International Atomic Energy Agency to Belarus, the Russian Federation and Ukraine on remediation of agricultural and urban environments, cost-effective agricultural countermeasures and the monitoring of human exposure in areas affected by the Chernobyl disaster;

11. *Also notes with satisfaction* the progress made by the Governments of the affected countries in implementing national strategies to mitigate the consequences of the Chernobyl disaster, calls upon United Nations agencies and multilateral and bilateral donors to continue to align their assistance with the priorities of the national strategies of the affected States, and stresses the importance of working together on their implementation in a common effort in the spirit of cooperation;

12. *Welcomes* the achievements of the International Chernobyl Research and Information Network, aimed at providing scientific information on the consequences of the accident, with practical advice for local communities in the affected territories of Belarus, the Russian Federation and Ukraine through dissemination of the findings of the Chernobyl Forum, including by providing accurate information on the impact of radiation in accessible, non-technical language in the form of practical messages on healthy and productive lifestyles to the populations affected by the accident in order to empower them to maximize social and economic recovery and sustainable development in all its aspects;

13. *Stresses* the importance of the full implementation of the third decade after the Chernobyl disaster, 2006–2016, the Decade of Recovery and Sustainable Development of the Affected Regions, proclaimed in its resolution 62/9, which is focused on achieving the goal of a return to normal life for the affected communities as far as is possible within this time frame;

14. *Requests* the United Nations Development Programme to coordinate, within existing resources, the efforts of the United Nations system and with other relevant actors on the implementation of the Decade and to keep post-Chernobyl recovery issues high on the inter-agency and international agendas;

15. *Welcomes with appreciation* the participation and input of the international community at the international conference entitled "25 Years after the Chernobyl Disaster: Safety for the Future", held from 20 to 22 April 2011 in Kyiv, initiated by Ukraine and co-sponsored by Belarus and the Russian Federation;

16. *Notes* the international high-level representation at the Kyiv Summit on the Safe and Innovative Use of Nuclear Energy, held on 19 April 2011 and initiated by the Government of Ukraine;

17. *Welcomes* the initiatives of the Governments of Belarus, the Russian Federation and Ukraine to host international events to mark the thirtieth anniversary of the Chernobyl accident, and invites organizations of the United Nations system, donor countries and other development agencies to contribute to their effective realization;

18. *Calls upon* the relevant United Nations bodies, the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system to actively engage in and fund, within existing resources, the preparations for these events;

19. *Encourages* Governments, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, major groups, the private sector and other donors to contribute to the relevant preparatory processes;

20. *Requests* the Secretary-General to ensure, as appropriate, the full involvement of resident coordinators and country teams in Belarus, the Russian Federation and Ukraine in preparations for the above-mentioned events;

21. *Requests* the President of the General Assembly to convene, on 26 April 2016, a special commemorative meeting of the Assembly in observance of the thirtieth anniversary of the Chernobyl catastrophe;

22. *Requests* the Secretary-General to continue his efforts in the implementation of the relevant General Assembly resolutions and, through existing coordination mechanisms, in particular the United Nations Coordinator of International Cooperation on Chernobyl, to continue to maintain close cooperation and to lead the dialogue with the agencies of the United Nations system and Member States on the future of inter-agency cooperation on the Chernobyl disaster, as well as with regional and other relevant organizations, while implementing specific Chernobyl-related programmes and projects;

23. *Requests* the United Nations Coordinator of International Cooperation on Chernobyl to organize, within existing resources, in collaboration with the Governments of Belarus, the Russian Federation and Ukraine, organizations of the United Nations system, donor countries and other development agencies, a review of progress made during the Decade, as well as to consider further approaches to international cooperation on Chernobyl, and welcomes in this context the generous proposal of Belarus to host the relevant event in 2014;

24. *Also requests* the United Nations Coordinator of International Cooperation on Chernobyl to continue to collect, document and disseminate all experiences and lessons learned from tackling the human consequences of the Chernobyl nuclear accident for application and replication in other nuclear disaster situations and to fully utilize those experiences in the areas of disaster risk reduction, preparedness, response and recovery worldwide;

25. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its seventy-first session, under a separate sub-item, a report containing a comprehensive assessment of the implementation of all aspects of the present resolution and, in particular, of the action plan on Chernobyl to 2016.

67th plenary meeting
13 December 2013